

CLAIMS

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 a network interface configured to receive an input formatted in eXtensible Markup
3 Language from a remote computer;
4 a parser, coupled to the network interface, configured to parse the input,
5 configured to determine a control action encoded within the input.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1,
2 a data port configured to receive an input/output module.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control action specifies the address
2 of the input/output module.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 3,
2 an input analyzer, coupled to the parser, configured to map the control action to
3 the input/output module.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4,
2 a control manager, coupled to the input analyzer, configured to initiate the control
3 action with the input/output module.
- 1 6. A method comprising:
2 receiving an eXtensible Markup Language input containing an action relevant to a
3 control function;
4 executing the action relevant to the control function.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 parsing the eXtensible Markup Language input to determine the action relevant to
3 the control function.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the eXtensible Markup Language input is received from a remote computer.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
mapping the action relevant to the control function to an address of an input/output module.
10. A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:
receive an eXtensible Markup Language input containing an action relevant to a control function;
execute the action relevant to the control function.
11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 further encoded with data and instructions, further comprising:
parsing the eXtensible Markup Language input to determine the action relevant to the control function.
12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the eXtensible Markup Language input is received from a remote computer.
13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 further encoded with data and instructions, further comprising, further comprising:
means for mapping the action relevant to the control function to an address of an input/output module.
14. An apparatus comprising:
means for receiving an eXtensible Markup Language input containing an action relevant to a control function;
means for executing the action relevant to the control function.
15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

- 2 means for parsing the eXtensible Markup Language input to determine the action
3 relevant to the control function.
- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the eXtensible Markup Language input
2 is received from a remote computer.
- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
2 means for mapping the action relevant to the control function to an address of an
3 input/output module.